

ABSTRACT

A pile fabric may be employed in automotive, furniture upholstery and other
5 applications. Pile surfaces on such fabrics may be provided in tufts, or collections of
fiber bundles, arranged in rows upon a base portion. Fabrics and methods of
making fabrics which minimize the average amount of void space between
respective tufts or rows are disclosed. Fabrics which provide more effective overall
fabric coverage upon base portions of the fabric are described. A method of "heat
10 shocking" fibers during the drawing of said fibers to pre-stress the fiber and thereby
produce a fabric having greater bloom or bulk is disclosed. Providing differential
heat history to predetermined portions of the fiber may be a suitable manner of
obtaining a fiber which can be used to form a fabric having greater bulk.